

I'm particularly disappointed in the way public airwaves are being used for corporate profit, to the detriment of the public interest. For example, large media conglomerates are making a mint on election advertising, and this is driving the expense of running a campaign sky high. In turn, we have politicians beholden to the big \$\$ contributors, who get special consideration at the expense of the majority of citizens. I think political advertising time should be specified in advance, and provided as a free public service in return for the use of the PUBLIC AIRWAVES.

In addition, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.